



State Capitol | Lansing, Michigan 48913

PH (517) 373.3760 | FAX (517) 373.8661

www.senate.michigan.gov/gop/senator/cropsey/

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Wednesday, February 26, 2003

Contact: John Lazet
(517) 373-3760

Cropsey: Impersonating an Officer Should Be a Felony

Sponsors legislation passed today by Senate to revise Code of Criminal Procedure

LANSING – Individuals perpetrating crimes of impersonating a peace officer, police officer or coroner would face felony charges under legislation that passed the Michigan State Senate, Senator Alan Cropsey, R-DeWitt, announced today.

“Michigan has, unfortunately, documented many cases of individuals impersonating officers by flashing lights to pull drivers over, displaying fake police badges, and even impersonating officers to obtain entry into homes,” Cropsey said. “Just recently a plain clothes officer was pulled over by a car with a flashing blue light, only to discover that the “officer” who flashed a badge was really someone seeking personal information. At a time when the nation is on high alert for terrorism and Michigan is working to improve our homeland security, it is critical that we can trust all who wear a police or sheriff uniform and badge.”

Senate Bill 117, sponsored by Cropsey, would amend the Code of Criminal Procedure to include the sentencing guidelines of impersonating a peace officer to be a felony offense. The new designation would be a Class F felony against the public safety, with a statutory maximum sentence of four years’ imprisonment.

Senate Bill 118, sponsored by Alan Sanborn, R-Richmond, would amend the Michigan Penal Code to update the prohibition against impersonating a police officer or coroner. SB 118 would create a felony offense for impersonating a peace officer to commit or attempt to commit a crime.

“Michigan’s law enforcement officers are widely trusted and respected,” Cropsey said. “Abusing this respect and the authority of police officers to conduct criminal activity cannot be tolerated in our state.”

Senate Bills 117 and 118 will now be sent to the House of Representatives for consideration.